

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 and 27-31 are allowed. Claim 26 has been amended. No claims have been added. No claims have been canceled.

The Examiner has objected to the amendment to the specification at page 14, lines 7-8. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification has been amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(2)(ii), and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the oath/declaration as being defective under 37 C.F.R. §1.67(b)(3). Applicant respectfully submits that the statement “material to examination” in the previously submitted declaration/oath is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a). Applicant respectfully submits that, as provided by 35 U.S.C §131, the Director shall cause an *examination of an application* and the alleged invention to be made to determine that the applicant is *entitled to a patent under the law* (i.e., determine patentability of the application); and if on such examination it appears that the applicant is entitled to a patent under the law, the Director shall issue a patent thereof. See 35 U.S.C. §131, emphasis added. As such, the *examination* of an application is used to determine *patentability* of an application. By implication, the statement “material to examination” is sufficient language to satisfy the requirement that the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be “material to patentability” as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, since *examination* is used to determine *patentability* of an application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that “material to examination” is sufficient, and respectfully requests that the objection to the oath/declaration be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gougeon et al (U.S. 4,474,536). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims. Independent claim 26, as amended, recites:

A connecting element for bridging a separation line between rotor blade elements for a rotor blade of a wind power system, comprising:
at least two fixing segments, wherein the at least **two fixing segments taper towards the surface of the connecting element in a wedge-shaped manner beginning from the separation line between the rotor blade elements**; and
locking segments surrounding said fixing segments,
wherein the connecting element has diminutions directed outwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the rotor blade elements to be connected, and

wherein the diminutions are formed in such a way that the connecting element forms a hollow space with the rotor blade elements to be connected. (emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 requires that the two fixing segments taper towards the surface of the connecting element in a wedge-shaped manner beginning from the separation line between the rotor blade elements. Gougeon fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

Gougeon is directed to hollow wind turbine blades that include abutting blade sections and a flush joint. (See Gougeon, Abstract). In the process of assembling the two blade sections, the end walls of each of the blades are first of all butt-joined in flush relationship to the end walls of the central section to form the butt joint (designated as J in Figure 1). (See Gougeon, col. 2, lines 30-40). At the assembly site, the abutting faces are clamped and adhesively secured together with the adhesive and, after curing of the adhesive, the grooves are cut in the two sections. The pair of grooves forms diamond-shaped recesses for receiving load transmitting wood block splice inserts. (See Gougeon, col. 3, lines 22-32). The sides of these inserts should uniformly taper *top to bottom* between about 2 and 5 degrees. (See col. 3, lines 40-43)(emphasis added). This tapering is directed *inwardly* toward the partition line of the adjoining sections along the length and the height of the rotor blade by the sides of the splice inserts diminishing from *top to bottom*. The tapering of Gougeon, however, does not taper towards the surface of the connecting element in a wedge-shaped manner beginning from the separation line between the rotor blade elements. Accordingly, the splice inserts do not constitute the two fixing segments taper towards the surface of the connecting element in a wedge-shaped manner beginning from the separation line between the rotor blade elements, as required by claim 26.

Moreover, the Office action purports that locking segments are met by the elements labeled 27a, and the fixing segments are met by the elements labeled 27b, as illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. (See Office action, mailed June 27, 2007, page 4). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office action's characterization of the cited reference. The elements labeled 27a and the elements labeled 27b are merely sides of the insert 27. The sides 27a do not surround the sides 27b. Accordingly, the sides 27a do not constitute locking segments *surrounding* said fixing elements, as required by claim 1.

Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim as described above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is patentable over the cited

reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claim 26 as amended is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

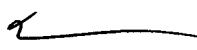
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the claims and the abstract have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that Claims 1-26 as amended are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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